

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice

19. A system for charging a battery coupled to an output of a switching power converter from a charging source having a positive terminal and a negative terminal, the system comprising:

an ac machine coupled to an input of the switching power converter; and

a connecting means for selectively connecting the positive terminal of the charging source to said ac machine.

20. The system of Claim 19 wherein the negative terminals of the charging source and the battery are connected to system ground.

21. The system of Claim 19 wherein said charging source has a voltage level which is less than the voltage level of the battery.